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Message Text

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47
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
---------- 061258
O 261735Z FEB 75
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8277

S E C R E T TOKYO 2511

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: JA OVIP (HIROHITO EMPEROR)
SUBJ: IMPERIAL VISIT

REF: A) TOKYO 02502; B) STATE 042866

1. DIRGEN AMERICAN AFFAIRS BUREAU YAMAZAKI MET WITH DCM LATE EVENING FEBRUARY 26 TO OUTLINE FOREIGN OFFICE PLANNING FOR EXPEDITIOUS ANNOUNCEMENT OF IMPERIAL VISIT TO U.S. YAMAZAKI STATED THAT IMPERIAL HOUSEHOLD AGENCY (IHA) ALREADY HAS BEEN INFORMED OF U.S. AGREEMENT TO DATES OF OCTOBER 2-3 AND THAT IHA ANXIOUS TO MAKE FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENT SOONEST IN ORDER TO AVOID PRESS LEAKS.

2. VICE FOREIGN MINISTER TOGO WILL MEET WITH PRIME MINISTER MIKI AND CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY IDE DURING MORNING OF FEBRUARY 27 TO OBTAIN FINAL APPROVAL FOR DATES AND PROCEDURES FOR FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENT. PRIME MINISTER THEN WILL HAVE AUDIENCE WITH EMPEROR LATE AFTERNOON FEBRUARY 27 TO FORMALLY REQUEST IMPERIAL VISIT TO U.S.

3. ONCE THESE FORMALITIES COMPLETED, FOREIGN OFFICE WISHES TO HAVE PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT MADE ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28 AT 0930 HOURS TOKYO TIME (THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27 AT 2030 HOURS WASHINGTON TIME) FOLLOWING CABINET MEETING AT 0900 HOURS WHEN CABINET APPROVAL WOULD BE OBTAINED. YAMAZAKI EXPLAINED THAT IN ORDER AVOID PRESS LEAKS, CABINET MEMBERS OTHER THAN FOREIGN MINISTER WILL NOT BE AWARE IN ADVANCE OF AGREEMENT ON DATES
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FOR IMPERIAL VISIT. ALSO FOR THIS REASON, FOREIGN OFFICE HOPES

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THAT U.S. WILL BE AGREEABLE TO MAKE SIMULTANEOUS ANNOUNCEMENT
AT 0930 HOURS FEBRUARY 28 TOKYO TIME WITHOUT PRIOR RELEASE ON
EMBARGOED BASIS. (CONCERN THAT PRIOR EMBARGOED RELEASE MAY
ACTIVATE JAPANESE PRESS TO QUERY CABINET MEMBERS BEFORE MEETING
SCHEDULED FOR MORNING FEBRUARY 28 REFLECTS HYPERSENSITIVITY
OF FOREIGN OFFICE TO POSSIBILITY PRESS LEAKS BEFORE OFFICIAL
ANNOUNCEMENT.)

4. YAMAZAKI PROVIDED DCM WITH FOLLOWING DRAFT TEXT OF GOJ
ANNOUNCEMENT: BEGIN TEXT. THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA HAS FOR SOME TIME EXTENDED AN INVITATION TO THEIR
MAJESTIES THE EMPEROR AND EMPRESS OF JAPAN TO PAY AN OFFICIAL
VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES. PARA. ACTING ON THE ADVICE OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN THAT, IN VIEW OF THE RELATIONS OF FRIENDSHIP
AND GOODWILL BETWEEN JAPAN AND THE UNITED STATES, IT IS DESIRABLE
THAT THEIR MAJESTIES PAY AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES IN
THE FALL OF THIS YEAR, THEIR MAJESTIES HAVE ACCEPTED THE
INVITATION. PARA. THE DETAILS OF THEIR MAJESTIES' ITINERARY REMAIN
TO BE
WORKED OUT. THE TRIP IS EXPECTED TO LAST FOR ABOUT TWO WEEKS.
THEIR MAJESTIES ARE SCHEDULED TO DEPART FROM TOKYO ON OCTOBER 1,
ENGAGE IN OFFICIAL FUNCTIONS IN WASHINGTON D.C. ON OCTOBER 2 AND 3
AND RETURN TO JAPAN AFTER VISITING SOME PLACES IN THE UNITED
STATES END TEXT.

5. YAMAZAKI STATED THAT THIS DRAFT HAS NOT YET BEEN APPROVED
BY IHA, BUT HE EVIDENTLY DID NOT ANTICIPATE ANY PROBLEMS ON
THAT SCORE. HE EXPLAINED THAT SECOND PARA OF DRAFT TEXT
FOLLOWS PRECEDENT OF ANNOUNCEMENT MADE AT TIME OF EMPEROR'S
EUROPEAN TRIP AND IS DESIGNED TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF JAPAN'S
CONSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE IN ACCORDANCE WITH WHICH EMPEROR MUST
ACT ON ADVICE OF GOVERNMENT.
YAMAZAKI APPRECIATED FACT THAT THIS DRAFT
WOULD NOT PERMIT TEXTUALLY PARALLEL ANNOUNCEMENTS WASHINGTON AND
TOKYO BUT EXPRESSED HOPE THAT U.S. COULD ACCOMMODATE TO SPECIAL
REQUIREMENTS OF JAPANESE CONSTITUTION. HE SUGGESTED, THEREFORE,
THAT WHITE HOUSE ANNOUNCEMENT MIGHT BE ALONG FOLLOWING LINES
WHICH WOULD INCORPORATE OPERATIVE FINAL PARAGRAPH OF
JAPANESE DRAFT: BEGIN TEXT THE WHITE HOUSE ANNOUNCED THAT
THEIR MAJESTIES THE EMPEROR AND EMPRESS OF JAPAN HAVE ACCEPTED
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THE INVITATION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO PAY A
STATE VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES. PARA. THE DETAILS OF
THEIR MAJESTIES ITINERARY REMAINS TO BE WORKED OUT. THE TRIP
IS EXPECTED TO LAST FOR ABOUT TWO WEEKS. THEIR MAJESTIES
ARE SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE IN WASHINGTON ON OCTOBER 1 AND WILL
ENGAGE IN OFFICIAL FUNCTIONS IN WASHINGTON ON OCTOBER
2 AND 3. THEIR MAJESTIES WILL RETURN TO JAPAN AFTER
VISITING SOME PLACES IN THE UNITED STATES END TEXT.

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6. YAMAZAKI ASSURED DCM THAT FINAL APPROVAL FOR PROPOSED TIMING OF ANNOUNCEMENT OF IMPERIAL VISIT WILL BE CONVEYED TO EMBASSY NO LATER THAN 1200 HOURS (TOKYO TIME), FEBRUARY 27 (2300 HOURS FEBRUARY 26 WASHINGTON TIME).
ACTION REQUESTED: INFORM EMBASSY SOONEST: A) IS PROPOSED TIMING FOR SIMULTANEOUS RELEASE OF ANNOUNCEMENT, WITHOUT ADVANCE EMBARGOED RELEASE, AGREEABLE; B) IS TEST OF PROPOSED JAPANESE TEXT OF ANNOUNCEMENT ACCEPTABLE; AND C) WHAT WILL BE TEXT, OR SUBSTANCE, OF U.S. ANNOUNCEMENT?
HODGSON

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